

8. (new) The method of covering a dental instrument according to claim 6 further comprising:  
applying heat to the protective covering;  
shrinking the protective covering onto the dental instrument.

9. (new) The method of covering a dental instrument according to claim 6 further comprising:  
rolling the protective covering with the wings backward such that the outer surface of the protective covering becomes the inside of the rolled-in dental covering for easy and sanitary disposal of the protective covering.

**REMARKS**

Claim 1 continues to be in the case.

Claims 2 through 9 are being introduced.

Claims 2 and 3 are based on Fig. 1.

The present amendment provides new claims based on applicant's specification.

New claim 4 is based on the specification, page 2, lines 1 through 3.

New claim 5 is based on the specification, page 2, lines 14 through 18.

New claim 6 is based on the specification, page 4 and the drawing.

New claims 7 and 8 are based on the specification, page 4, lines 6 through 8.

New claim 9 is based on the specification, page 2, lines 15 through 23.

### **Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103**

The Office Action states that claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eisner et al in view of Stearns and Curry. Eisner shows an elastic protective covering 10 made of a thermoshrinkable material, column 9, lines 15-25. The specific tolerance used is an obvious matter of choice in the degree of a known parameter to one of ordinary skill in the art looking to find the best match for the intended instrument.

Applicant is now presenting color images of the invention structure as well as its application to dental instruments. Applicant respectfully submits that the references do not teach such structure and the references have nothing as a cover for dental instruments.

Applicant further presents the following considerations relating to the present invention:

„The protective sleeve bag for operative dental instruments”

1. The protective covering of operative dental instruments according to the present invention is made of a thermoshrinkable foil, which:

a) is admissible to contact with spittle, blood and other discharges of man,

b) is sterile – and in consideration of the contractability at low temperature - sterilization through ionized rays should be employed, because only such sterilization does not destroy the structure of the thermoshrinkable foil.

2. The protective covering has the form of an elongated tubular elastic cover with an elliptical cross – section, where a junction is disposed from two sides joining two sheets serving for quickly taking off a shrink cover from the protected instrument. Catching flat hinged endings and tearing the covering into two parts until the moment of reaching this part of the covering, wherein an instrument was operating in a patient’s mouth, such as contra-angle hand piece for a dental drill (angle piece), hand piece for dental drill, scaling instrument, camera. The covering is then wrapped to lay the covering into infected areas. The process of removing is quick and efficient.

Applicant is enclosing a number of photographs, wherein three photographs show the removing process.

The first photograph introduces initial tear parts of covering on two sides. The second photograph introduces further tear and the third photograph introduces extracting the shrink covering from an instrument which was operating in a patient's mouth.

3. In many publications, particular attention is turned to the particular end pieces and tool bits operating and acting immediately in a patient's mouth, such as contra-angle hand piece for a dental drill, straight hand piece for a dental drill. The doctor doesn't only touch the parts which touch the oral mucous liquid of a patient's mouth. The dentist touches other places by connecting this instrument to a small-power motor, and with an arm, which is a continuation of the instrument. Too little attention is given to the dental blowers, which have a lever with valves for opening nozzles delivering the water and the air. In the course of washing and cleaning the residuals from carious remainder, there occurs exhaust which falls on a dental blower pipe, a glove and a doctor's face depending on the exhaust angle. Therefore this protection intending to protect the dental instrument generates a universal protection, where the protection serves as a complete covering of this part of the instrument which the doctor touches during operating, namely a contra-angle dental hand piece (angle piece), a straight hand piece for dental drill with a small-power motor and a glove, a dental blower with sleeve, a scaling handle with sleeve, an

autosomal mouth camera and the like. This protection is universal based on its form because its narrow part covers narrower instruments such as contra-angle dental hand piece (angle piece), straight hand piece for dental drill, narrow part dental blower pipe, and its broader part covers instead thicker parts of an instrument such as a small-power motor, or a bent part of a dental blower pipe. The applicant has employed this protection in her consulting room of her dental office for many years. The applicant encloses a few photographs of the implements which the applicant uses in her dental office.

The photographs show:

- a) a protection and an unshrunk protection on an instrument,
  - b) a shrunken protection on an instrument – contra-angle dental hand piece (angle piece) with small-power motor and sleeve, straight hand piece for dental drill with small-power motor and sleeve, a contra-angle dental hand piece (turbine angle piece) with sleeve and two dental blower pipes of many forms with exchangeable metal ends.
4. Symmetrical end sheets are disposed on the end of the protection and serve for quickly opening of the protection in order to insert the instrument and to take off the shrink protection of the instrument to be protected.
  5. The shape of the protection is not similar to the shape of the instrument to be protected because there are no two identical instruments in a

practical dental office. The protection was shrunk in different cases by 2%, by 20% and in other cases by 50%. The dimension tolerance should be on a scale 1-50% in proportion to size of the surface of the dental instrument to be protected..

6. Shrinking the protection cover on the instrument to be protected is performed by means of a typical reheater with deflection nozzle as is used in electronic technology for shrinking covers on electrical cables.

7. In case of using a contra-angle dental hand piece (angle piece) with half-open lever for securing bits, then it is necessary to open this lever before entering to warm and shrink because otherwise it will not be possible to put the bit in place and to exchange the bit.

8. Upon shrinking on the protection onto the instrument, one opens the contra-angle dental hand piece (angle piece) and the straight hand piece for a dental drill for the bit and for the outflow of the water..

9. In instruments such as a scaling instrument, which has an opening for the water at the exchangeable end, one has to put the exchangeable end on the handle and then place the protection cover for showing the protective cover. Then the complete apparatus is exposed to the shrinking process.

10. In connection with instruments such as strong light lamps – halogen lamps, intra-mouth cameras and the like, one employs the shrinking process without fearing a damaging of the instrument because shrinking thermo-shrinkable foil contains heat for a softening and drawing

process and the thermo-shrinkable foil does not heat up the instrument to be protected.

11. One employs a source of heat (reheater) of great power (1500 WAT) in order to perform the process quickly and efficiently.

12. The process shrinking the foil onto an instrument to be protected always begins with a screw movement from the front of the instrument exhausting the air to the rear in the direction of the exit. If one begins shrinking from a central part of the instrument to be protected then the air in the front section will be shut off and so results in an air bag or bladder, which renders a perfect adjacency of the shrunk foil on the instrument impossible. If this situation occurs at an in an instrument which needs to cut an opening for the bit and the water it will be necessary to cut the opening at first and then next shrink again the non-shrunk by exhausting air in the direction of the cut opening.

Reconsideration of all outstanding rejections is respectfully requested.

All claims as presently submitted are deemed to be in form for allowance and an early notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Krystyna Roslan - Szulc

By:



Horst M. Kasper, his attorney  
13 Forest Drive, Warren, N.J. 07059  
Tel. (908)757-2839; Reg.No. 28559

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